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VPI/00-117 USIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner : Venkataraman Balasubramanian  
 Group Art Unit : 1624  
 Applicants : Charrier, et al.  
 Application No. : 09/877,832  
 Confirmation No. : 9982  
 Filed : June 7, 2001  
 For : CASPASE INHIBITORS AND USES THEREOF

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Cambridge, Massachusetts  
 November 27, 2006

Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

Following a November 25, 2005 Final Office Action, applicants submitted a reply to the Office Action and a Notice of Appeal on April 25, 2006 in the above-identified application. Applicants received an Advisory Action, dated May 10, 2006. In lieu of an Appeal Brief, applicants are submitting herewith a Reply to the Advisory Action. Applicants have submitted herewith a request for a five-month extension of time to file the Appeal Brief. The time for submitting an Appeal Brief (or reply) is, therefore, up to and including November 27, 2006 (November 25-26 being a Saturday and Sunday, respectively).

Accordingly, this reply is timely filed.

Amendments to the claims begin at page 2 of this reply.

Remarks begin at page 5 of this reply.